

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2003**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on December 8, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Houghland, Scruggs, and Tabb. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Clayton, and Serra, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.

Mr. John Harlow, 706 Rainfinger Court, Queens Lake Subdivision, York County, addressed Council regarding the long period of time that Queens Lake was without service during Hurricane Isabel. Many residents there are upset. He understood that their area is served from the substation located behind K-Mart.

Mayor Zeidler responded that the representatives from Virginia Dominion Power were present today, but that Queens Lake residents should contact York County, specifically representative Walt Zaremba.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Virginia Dominion Power Update—Max Bartholomew, Senior Manager, External Affairs, Eastern Region

Mr. Tuttle introduced Mr. Bartholomew.

Mr. Bartholomew said that he appreciated being invited to address Council during this post-hurricane phase. Dominion representatives have been meeting with government entities and commissions. He introduced his associate Jeff Hutchinson, Distribution Operations Manager. Hurricane Isabel came through the heart of Virginia Dominion Power (DVP) territory. DVP has been working with emergency management personnel from local governments to receive recommendations and input, as well as internal critiques. The initial meeting was held on November 6 in Richmond and a follow-up meeting will be held on December 18. Mr. Bartholomew reported that 1.8 million services were affected by the hurricane in North Carolina and Virginia. Because the weather service was on track with the storm, VDP was able to anticipate the damage and move additional personnel into the area before the storm. Later, additional personnel were added for a total of 12,000.

Mr. Bartholomew reported on restoring services after the hurricane, the first to be to hospitals, emergency management centers, and water treatment plants. Williamsburg had a total 100% outage, with 95% in the Eastern Region.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Hutchinson for coming.

Council members and Mr. Bartholomew discussed:

1. Prioritizing restoration service. Nursing homes will be added as a priority and others will be discussed with localities.
2. Desirability and feasibility of underground wiring. Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Hutchinson responded. Virginia Dominion Power is still looking at underground wiring technology. They are looking at partnering with localities and FEMA to convert overhead to underground circuitry. Underground wiring maintenance and equipment is far more expensive, and it takes longer to find and repair underground systems. In some areas it would be desirable to have underground wiring because of better access. Williamsburg is still classified as an overhead utility area.
3. VDP has meteorologists on staff that assists in storm prediction.
4. VDP will document suggestions that come from the advisory group and they are making progress.
5. Mr. Bartholomew said there is a reliability group at VDP that monitors frequent outages and tries to identify the causes. That information is by circuit and can be provided to the City Manager. He enjoys meeting with local groups and offered to meet with the Neighborhood Council.
6. VDP's Forestry Department has been aggressive in trimming and removing trees, particularly since the ice storm a few years ago. He offered to work with subdivisions.
7. The Reliability Group looks at the attributes of a looping system for a particular neighborhood.
8. The city's role in considering underground wiring in inaccessible areas and the costs of undergrounding.
9. VDP learned that nursing homes can be imbedded in neighborhood areas and that wells and septic systems should be identified.

Council members thanked Virginia Dominion Power for the service they provided to our community during the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel.

Mr. Tuttle said that he would continue to attend the meetings with Virginia Dominion Power.

Mayor Zeidler noted that one of City Council's goals is to underground all wires in the city.

Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail Update—John Kuplinski, Director

Mr. Tuttle introduced Mr. Kuplinski to provide a brief overview of jail operations. Mr. Tuttle serves as a member on the Regional Jail Authority Board of Directors.

Mr. Kuplinski provided an update on jail operations. He was proud of the facility. The jail works in partnership with the community through the work-release program and through the GED program with the School System. From time to time school students visit the jail.

Mr. Kuplinski introduced the video highlighting the jail, which was dedicated in June 1997. The jail has a “pod” housing concept and contains a medical unit. It is a direct supervision facility with officers on-duty 24 hours a day. Inmates are involved in productive activities whenever possible. Programs are offered in literacy, life skills, GED, parenting classes, and choir. Inmates work in the community as part of the Community Workforce Program with staff overseeing the work. There are no monetary awards. Food service was highlighted on the video, as well as the jail’s catering service. Inmates are involved with a “straight talk” program to help problem youth.

Mr. Kuplinski invited Council to attend a volunteer dinner at the jail this same evening at 6:30 p.m. He closed by saying that the inmates at the jail are talented people and he hoped to move them in the right direction for the future.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Kuplinski for his presentation and film.

Mr. Kuplinski and Council members discussed jail operations including the costs of housing an inmate and funding sources. It was noted that the costs for the jail were below average compared to other jail systems. The jail was designed to house 288 inmates, but could house close to 500 with double bunking.

Mr. Kuplinski said that the jail’s philosophy is to provide inmates the opportunity to develop skills to help better themselves. The jail houses some US Marshall Service inmates, but does not house inmates from other states as was originally predicted.

Council members were pleased with the excellent job Mr. Kuplinski was doing to run the jail. They were appreciative of his energy and keenness.

PREVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING—December 11, 2003

No additional information was required.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Zeidler noted that her November report was distributed to Council members.

Mr. Haulman reported on the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority activities. The Strawberry Plains Redevelopment Project has three houses under contract and 25 applications are being processed. Two homes on Pocahontas Street will benefit from the Indoor Plumbing Grant Program, and landscaping projects are underway at the Mimosa Apartments. A Braxton Court Redevelopment Project meeting will be held on December 15. The Triangle Building has a new roof. Blayton Building residents will have a Christmas Party Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m., at the Community Building.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS—December 2003

Council members received a copy of the December meeting calendar.

Meeting with Representatives Barlow and Norment: Mr. Tuttle reminded Council of the meeting on December 19, 2003, at 3:30 p.m.

Interviews for School Board and Planning Commission Applicants: Interviews will be held on December 15, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. City Council will hold a special meeting on December 19, 9:00 a.m., to make the appointments.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler opened the session for public comment.
No one wished to comment. The session was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Approved: January 8, 2004

Shelia Y. Crist, Clerk of Council

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor